

Cooperative Agreements for Field Trials and Research Projects for Advancement of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)**

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.025, Plant and Animal Disease, Pest Control, and Animal Care

Dates: Applications must be received by December 30, 2005

Funding Opportunity Description: USDA initiated implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in 2004. The goal of NAIS is to be able to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. As an animal health information system that provides for rapid tracing of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, the NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained and eradicated as quickly as possible. The Department's first priority was to deploy components of the national premises registration system to facilitate premises registration. Producers, nationwide, now have the opportunity to register their premises; and ongoing efforts to promote premises registration remains a priority. Achieving a majority of eligible premises in each State registered will serve as a foundation for a successful NAIS.

The 48-hour traceback goal is contingent upon, or is related to, the completeness of the animal movement data. Producers, market operators, abattoirs, and other establishments where animals are held will be required to collect the Animal Identification Numbers (AINs) or Group/Lot Identification Numbers as the animals arrive at their premises and submit the data to the appropriate animal tracking database. It is acknowledged that the collection of animal movement information remains one of the greatest challenges for achieving the 48-hour goal.

Funding will be provided to State and Native American Tribal governments to support research and problem-solving needs, including assessment of existing, new, and novel technologies associated with the NAIS within their respective geographic areas. It is expected that as NAIS implementation proceeds, questions concerning processes and technologies will continue to arise. This funding is intended to support investigators in providing solutions and /or documentation for identified issues and problems to be solved.

Applied and basic research projects are encouraged, as are economic studies documenting costs associated with implementation.

Projects of special interest are ones that will provide results to enhance the collection of animal identification data in typical production, market, and abattoir environments

without requiring significant change to existing animal handling practices. Projects involving (1) documentation and/or comparison of individual animal identification device effectiveness and (2) the effectiveness of devices for the collection of animals' identification at production, marketing, and harvesting facilities (or through the simulation of such environments) are especially encouraged. Additionally, projects that utilize technologies to validate animal identification to maintain the animal's identity when devices are lost or removed and to measure accuracy of animal identification are also of special interest.

Applications involving new and emerging technologies are also encouraged, but are expected to describe how a new technology would fit within or be adaptable to the NAIS in addition to objectively documenting effectiveness.

Applications pertaining to any of the livestock and animal industries associated with the NAIS are welcomed. Collaboration with private companies, industry/producer organizations, colleges/universities, research institutions or foundations, or other pertinent entities is strongly encouraged.

This funding opportunity does NOT include funds for direct implementation of the NAIS and does NOT include funds to evaluate or compare methods, technologies, or processes associated with animal movement data storage and management following collection. FY 2005 funding support for NAIS implementation was provided previously under a separate announcement.

This is a competitive funding announcement.

Total Amount to be Awarded: \$3,000,000

Projects to be Awarded: Approximately 15 Cooperative Agreements

Eligibility: State Governments
Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments

Cost Sharing: Cost sharing is preferred, but not required.

Application and Submission: An applicant may submit only one application. The applicant may also be a participant in an application submitted by another State or Tribal government.

Applicants can apply through the Grants.gov website or submit paper applications to the address at the end of this announcement.

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Background

The advent of increased global and national animal disease outbreaks over the past decade has intensified the public interest in developing a national animal identification program for safeguarding animal and public health. Some populations of certain species have been required to be identified as part of program disease eradication activities over the past several years. In addition, some significant regional voluntary and mandatory identification programs are in place. However, there is currently no mandatory, uniform national animal identification system in the United States for all animals of a given species.

Fundamental to controlling any disease threat to the Nation's animal resources is to have a system that can identify the following: individual animals or groups of animals, the premises where they are located, and the date of entry to each premises. Further, in order to achieve optimal success in controlling or eradicating an animal health threat, timely retrieval of this information and implementation of intervention strategies after confirmation of a disease outbreak are necessary.

USDA, therefore, initiated implementation of the NAIS in 2004. In 2004, funds were provided on a competitive basis to State and Tribal governments to implement the national premises registration system component of the NAIS and to conduct field trials or research into certain areas of interest in the proposed system.

The implementation of the NAIS continues to progress. The first priority has been to get each State operational regarding premises registration. This will allow producers across the entire country to participate in the NAIS. Producers with premises numbers will then be eligible to participate in the individual animal identification component.

B. USDA Approach

It must be ensured that participation requirements of the NAIS not only provide the results necessary to maintain the health of the national herd, but also that the program is practical for producers and all others involved in production. To accommodate this intent, full implementation of the NAIS will be a phased-in plan.

During the initial implementation period, participation is voluntary. Stakeholders have the opportunity to obtain experience with the system and provide feedback as successful and practical solutions evolve.

The first priority is to identify locations that hold and manage livestock with the nationally unique, 7-character Premises Identification Number. States and Tribes administer premises registration.

Once producers have registered their premises, they may obtain official identification devices that are encoded or imprinted with an AIN. [The AIN provides a unique lifetime number for each animal identified as an individual. Producers with species identified as groups or lots may use their premises number to establish the official Group/Lot Identification of their animals.] As producers acquire AIN devices, a NAIS record will be created, linking the devices to the receiving premises. In this way, animal health

officials will have critical information needed during a disease traceback to determine the origin of an animal or where it was first tagged.

A full timeline of the phased-in approach to NAIS implementation is available in the Draft Strategic Plan. Additionally, greater detail of how the NAIS will work is in the NAIS Draft Program Standards document. This resource document will be updated as species and issue-based working groups provide feedback on the mechanics of the plan. These documents are available at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>. The goal is to create an effective, uniform, consistent, and efficient national system.

Advances toward this goal have begun by creating data standards for premises and animal numbering systems and data element standards. These systems will allow States and Tribes to build on national data standards set by USDA and ensure a uniform and compatible system is created across the United States. Advances toward this goal will continue by ensuring there is enough flexibility in the system to allow producers to use current systems and technologies, or adopt new ones, and to use an available, compatible system(s) of their choice.

Technologies used to collect animal identification data will be ultimately determined by stakeholders and supported by research conducted and partially supported by these cooperative agreement funds. Processes and technologies used to advance implementation of the NAIS will need to be evaluated and assessed effectively to make informed decisions.

A major component of implementing a national system will be educating livestock producers and processors about how the system will operate and about their responsibilities. To meet the educational needs of livestock producers and processors, USDA will need to work in tandem with States, organizations, and other stakeholders. Applications for field trials and research cooperative agreements must include a component to disseminate results to all interested stakeholders.

C. Project Criteria

Cooperative agreements will support field trials and/or research projects which address problems or questions regarding NAIS implementation. Applied and basic research projects are encouraged as are economic studies documenting costs associated with implementation. Cooperative Agreement Field Trial and Research funds may be used to advance the integration of data collection systems that have already been developed and beta tested, but that need greater user exposure and evaluation in broad-field applications. This funding opportunity includes funds for conducting research to test potential solutions for animal identification data collection. Projects of interest are ones that:

- Will provide results to enhance the collection of animal identification in typical production, market, and abattoir environments without requiring significant changes to existing animal handling practices.
- Involve the documentation and/or comparison of individual animal identification device effectiveness, and the effectiveness of devices for the collection of animals' identification at production, marketing, and harvesting facilities (or through the simulation of such environments).

- Utilize technologies to validate animal identification to maintain the animal's identity when devices are lost, removed, or malfunction and that may measure the accuracy of animal identification in NAIS.
- Involve improved application of current technologies to enhance existing data collection systems capabilities.
- Involve new animal identification technologies with advanced data collection systems that meet the needs of stakeholders in production, marketing, and harvesting environments. A description of how such new technology would fit within or be adaptable to the NAIS in addition to objectively documenting effectiveness is required.

Applications pertaining to any of the livestock and animal industries associated with the NAIS are eligible. Collaboration with private companies, industry/producer organizations, colleges/universities, research institutions or foundations, or other pertinent entities is strongly encouraged.

The applicant must present clear and concise statements regarding well-defined and achievable objectives. Objectives that are focused on economic cost analysis of implementation for a particular segment of the production chain should follow sound economic assessment protocols and be defined within the application.

An explanation of the experimental design should be provided along with an outline of the roles and responsibilities of all participants, expected accomplishments by each party, and resources to be contributed by each.

Expected outcomes for each objective listed within the proposal should have measures of performance. Also, include an explanation of how each will be useful in providing to stakeholders information necessary to productively advance the implementation of the NAIS.

A complete budget and narrative description is required. Provide budget details that reflect the expenditures for the project. The budget should also delineate all funds to be provided by APHIS, as well as, all funds to be provided by the cooperator (Cost-Share). Additionally, the budget should include indirect costs (if necessary). Total requests, including direct and indirect costs, will not be accepted for more than \$1,000,000 per proposal.

Applications must contain a plan for disseminating their up-to-date research information and results to stakeholders.

II. Award Information

A. Total Available Funds: \$3,000,000

B. Anticipated Number of Awards: 15

C. Expected Amounts of Individual Awards: Approx. \$20,000 - \$1,000,000

D. Average funding per award: \$250,000

E. Anticipated Start Date: January 2006

F. Period of Performance: 1 Year

G. Renewal/Supplemental: None

H. Assistance Instrument: Cooperative Agreement

I. APHIS Role: APHIS/VS will administer the cooperative agreements and provide advice to the project administrator, track funding, receive and review progress reports, offer comments and suggestions, and track project performance.

APHIS personnel will meet with cooperators as often as necessary to ensure progress in accomplishing the goals of the project, identifying obstacles, and resolving concerns.

APHIS will provide the systems for allocating premises and animal identification numbers, the standardized premises registration, and animal identification numbering management systems.

APHIS will work closely with cooperators to develop necessary interfaces with the information systems APHIS maintains.

APHIS will provide extensive information regarding NAIS on their website and will provide materials to support outreach efforts of States and Tribes.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants: The State Animal Health Authorities and Native American Tribal governments may submit an application. In the event multiple States or Tribes work cooperatively as one project, one person from either a State or Tribe involved in the project must be responsible for the application and administration of the agreement. This person will be referred to as the Project Administrator and will be the primary contact for USDA. This person will also be the duly authorized representative who will sign the cooperative agreement application. The Project Administrator must submit an application package described in section IV.A. and the workplan in the format described in section IV.B.

Project Administrators whose projects are considered for funding on an individual basis will be required to complete the application for Federal Assistance for the official award of the cooperative agreement.

Please note funding restrictions in section IV.E. Applications involving a request for funds for a use that is restricted will be returned to the cooperator and will not be eligible for award. The cooperator must resubmit an application which does not involve a request for funds for restricted use in order to be considered eligible for award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching: USDA prefers that projects have contributing funds, cost-shared by the applicant or in-kind contributions, including third-party in-kind contributions.

C. Other Eligibility Criteria: An Applicant may submit only one application and/or be a sub recipient or subcontractor in an application submitted by another State or Tribal government.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package: IV.B. “Content and Form of Application Submission” contains the project workplan which outlines the format applicants need to use when applying. Paper copies of the other required application forms [SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance; SF-424A, Budget Information – Non Construction Programs; SF-424B, Assurances – Non-construction Programs; and SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required for Federal Assistance greater than \$100,000)] can be requested from the following address:

USDA, APHIS, MRPBS, Agreements Services Center
Eileen Berke
4700 River Road, Unit 55
Riverdale, MD 20737

They can also be retrieved from the APHIS website at the following address:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/forms/grantforms.html>

If an applicant chooses to apply through Grants.gov, the SF-424, SF-424A and B, and SF-LLL can be filled out and submitted online. The workplan format described in IV.B, “Content and Form of Application Submission” should then be submitted as an attachment.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Field Trials and Research Projects

WORKPLAN FORMAT

Cover Page

Name of Project:

Project Administrator:

Name of State or Tribal Government:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Office Phone:

Cell Phone:

Fax:

Email address (Project Administrator):

List additional State departments, Tribes, etc. that have confirmed participating in the project (complete name, address, etc.)

This is a competitive application process. It is to the applicant's advantage to submit the application in accordance with the guidelines that follow. Clear and defined objectives and methodologies are expected. Please complete each section explained on the following pages and maintain the format on your application. Applications should be typed, font size no less than 10 pt, and not exceed 20 total pages. Additional signature approval pages should not be counted as part of the 20-page maximum.

Signature of Project Administrator: _____

Date: _____

Objectives

This section should include clear and concise statements regarding well-defined and achievable objectives. Animal tracking projects are limited to processes and procedures associated with accumulating appropriate data for animal tracking, but are not to involve the development of database functions. Each objective should be accompanied by a statement of the null hypothesis to be tested in addition to the alternative hypothesis being tested for comparison, or, if no controls or comparisons are being assessed, a description of the point estimates and the confidence intervals to be used. Objectives that are focused on economic cost analysis of implementation for a particular segment of the production chain should follow sound economic assessment protocols and be defined within this application. The narrative should clearly and thoroughly explain each objective and purpose of the project and answer these questions:

- Why is this work critical to the successful implementation of the NAIS in your area or State?
- What specific problems and/or questions regarding implementation of the national identification system does the project intend to resolve?
- In what specific type of environment and management will this project be conducted?

Approach (Materials and Methods)

This section should discuss the experimental design and outline the roles and responsibilities of the project director, involved named colleagues, cooperator(s), statistician, and potential contract employees in terms of work to be performed, expected accomplishments by each party, and resources to be contributed by each.

I. Outline a Plan of Action (Introductory Overview)

- A. Provide an overview of the project.
- B. What is known about the problem(s)?
- C. What is not known about the problem(s)?

II. Background Detail of Work To Be Accomplished.

A. Indicate what components of the NAIS will be addressed within this project and explain how the components will be integrated into the project.

1. Premises Identification (if applicable)
2. Animal Identification (if applicable)
 - a) Individual animal
 - b) Group/Lot identification
3. Tracking (if applicable)
 - a) Individual animal
 - b) Group/Lot tracking

B. Stakeholder Participation

Please provide a list of the organizations involved in the project and explain their role/involvement. Accompanying letters of agreement and support to participate from the named participant organizations are expected. Also explain what issues and/or challenges potentially solved will be enhanced through this participation.

1. Producer, processor/marketing organizations
2. Government
3. Academia and/or Extension
4. Service providers (companies that provide services to producers)
5. Other

C. Industry Focus

1. List the livestock types that will be a significant part of the project. Include an estimated count of the number of participating premises for each species and an estimated count of the number of participating animals in each species. Also, indicate what issues and/or challenges will be targeted in each livestock type.

Beef: Dairy: Pigs: Sheep:
Other (list):

2. List the sectors of the production/marketing/processing industry involved and explain their involvement. Include an approximate number of premises participating from each. Also, indicate what issues and/or challenges will be targeted in each sector.

Producers: Markets: Order Buyers:
Feed Lots: Transportation: Packing Plants:
Other (list):

III. Describe how each activity is to be accomplished, including experimental design, statistical evaluation, and estimated number of observations needed to achieve a 95% confidence level to detect measurable differences.

IV. Describe any unusual features of the project.

V. Resources Required

A. Number and Type of Personnel:

1. Are they currently employed or will employees have to be hired? Identify mechanism(s) used to hire new employees for this project.
2. Will employees work on this project full-time or part-time? If part time, list the number of employees working on this project, the percentage of time each will spend on this project and the number of full time equivalents for this project.
3. Identify any other issues surrounding staff resources that may need to be covered.
Note: Personnel involved in data collection, data entry, education, etc. are eligible for funding. Personnel involved in software development, computer programming, etc. are not eligible for funding.
4. If any part of this project will involve direct handling or restraint of animals, please provide a statement as to the need for having Institutional

Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval prior to funding. If needed, please indicate that additional time will be needed to comply if it exceeds the deadline for submission of this proposal.

B. Equipment Needed:

1. What equipment will be provided by the cooperator?
2. What equipment will be provided by APHIS?
3. What equipment will be provided through APHIS funds?
4. Identify any major purchase needs and the use of the equipment to be purchased.
5. Identify the method of procurement to be used.
6. Identify the method of disposition of equipment to be used.

Note: Equipment eligible for funding would include identification collection devices, PCs for data entry, etc. Equipment such as servers, data storage, etc. is not eligible for funding.

C. Travel Needs: Accountability regarding use of these funds includes a formal presentation of findings to USDA/APHIS personnel. This will include written quarterly reports and a final summary. It will also include an oral presentation by the project director of results and findings. Please include and plan within the travel budget sufficient funds for the project director to travel to a national meeting to present findings within twelve months following the end of the project.

1. Method of payments
2. Rate of payments for travel and per diem
3. Approving official
4. Type of travel to be authorized
5. Number of trips to be authorized

D. Supplies:

1. Special supplies
2. Method of procurement

E. Other Resource Needs:

Detail resource needs that do not fit the categories above.

VI. Expected Outcomes

For each objective listed within this proposal, describe the measures of performance used and how each will be useful in providing to stakeholders information necessary to productively advance the implementation of the NAIS. Addressing each of the following for each objective would be of benefit to the application.

- What will you specifically achieve in completing this project?
- How will the results of the project be of merit to the overall implementation of NAIS?
- How will the applicant and industry benefit from the project?
- How will the results and outcomes of the project be distributed to stakeholders?

VII. Budget Table and Narrative

Provide budget details that reflect the expenditures for the project presented on Standard Form 424A.

The budget should include the same categories as those listed in Section V, “Resources Required,” above. The budget should also delineate all funds to be provided by APHIS, as well as all funds to be provided by the cooperator (Cost Share). Additionally, the budget should include direct costs and indirect costs (if necessary). Total requests, including direct and indirect costs, will not be accepted for more than \$1,000,000 per proposal.

Note: The project funds are to be obligated by APHIS from FY 2005 and will be available for cooperator expenditures incurred within twelve months from the date of signing of the Notice of Award.

The following forms must be submitted with the “Field Trial and Research Projects” Work Plan (above):

- **Application for Federal Assistance:** Standard Form 424
- **Budget Information:** Standard Form 424A
- **Assurances – Non-construction Programs:** Standard Form 424B
- **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:** SF-LLL (if applicable)
- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if claiming indirect costs)**

Note: The Indirect Cost Rate Agreement cannot be submitted through grants.gov. If you are applying through grants.gov, a copy of your agreement will be requested at the time of award.

C. Submission Dates and Times:

- **Deadline:** 4:30 EST, December 30, 2005
Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
- **Evaluation and Selection**
The evaluation and selection of applications will be conducted within approximately 45 days of the application deadline. Following the selection process, all applicants will be notified whether their application will be funded.
- **Allocation of Funds**
Funds will be awarded for a twelve-month period beginning on the date indicated in the Notice of Award. Extensions of time will not be granted to obligate funds.

D. Intergovernmental Review

CFDA 10.025 is subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs” in the States of: Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia,

Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia. Awards will not be made until this process has been completed in the applicable States. Names and addresses of States' Single Points of Contact (SPOC) are listed in the Office of Management and Budget's home page at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/>. For those applicants that have this process in their State, submit your application to the SPOC simultaneously to submitting to APHIS. Failure to meet with this requirement will result in a rejection of your application. A copy of the SPOC receipt and approval letter will be required at the time the award is made.

E. Funding Restrictions

Applications for monies for the mere continuation of implementation of the NAIS will not be accepted under this announcement.

Project funds must be obligated by the recipient within 12 months from the date the funds are made available by APHIS (the effective date as approved on the Notice of Award) unless otherwise stated for a lesser period in the Notice of Award. Extensions of time to obligate funds beyond the one-year period will not be granted. Construction, including renovations of real property, is not authorized.

Project funds may not be used for certain types of personnel, including computer software developers and programmers. The types of personnel who may be funded under these projects would include data entry clerks and program delivery personnel.

Project funds may not be used for certain types of equipment, including servers and data storage devices. Types of equipment which may be funded under these projects would include PCs for data entry.

The applicant must submit a copy of its fully-executed current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, negotiated by its cognizant Federal agency, when indirect costs are assessed in the budget. Each Native American Tribal government desiring reimbursement of indirect costs must submit its indirect cost proposal to the Department of the Interior (its cognizant Federal agency).

F. Other Submission Requirements

Applicants can apply to this funding opportunity through <http://grants.gov>. First time users should go to the "Get Started" tab on the Web site and carefully read and follow the steps listed in order to apply. Your organization will need to be registered with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). In order to register with the CCR, a requirement for registering with grants.gov, your organization will need a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company, Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). To investigate if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact Dun & Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711. Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the CCR registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting grant applications through Grants.gov.

Please note: The DUNS and CCR requirements described above are applicable to all applicants whether you choose to apply through grants.gov or submit a paper application package.

Applications must be received through grants.gov or at the address below by the deadline indicated in IV. C. "Submission Dates and Times."

Applications may be submitted electronically in MS Word, PDF format (email or delivered electronic media), or one original paper application package to:

USDA APHIS VS
c/o Neil Hammerschmidt, NAIS Coordinator
National Center for Animal Health Programs
4700 River Road – Unit 200
Riverdale, MD 20737
neil.e.hammerschmidt@aphis.usda.gov

V. Application Review Information

A. Criteria

1. Evaluation

The successful cooperator will be eligible for funding in an amount up to \$1,000,000. The application will be evaluated on its overall merit in meeting the project criteria explained in section I.C. on page 6 of this notice. The workplan must clearly demonstrate a thorough experimental design with a high probability of achieving objective and meaningful results. The application must also outline a plan for dissemination of results. If the applicant has received previous Federal funding to support pilot projects or field trial/research projects associated with aspects of the NAIS implementation, completed summaries of those projects, or quarterly reports due for projects in progress, must be submitted with this application to demonstrate ability to achieve interpretable results.

2. Other Criteria

While cost sharing is not required, it is preferred and may be considered in evaluating applications. For example, if two or more projects are considered to be of equal merit, the applicant that included a higher percentage or more cost sharing funds will be given a higher rating in the final evaluation process.

3. Multi-State/Tribe applications

States and Tribes may wish to submit an application collaboratively. For multi-State/Tribe applications a single State or Tribe must submit the application. If selected as a funded application, the applying State or Tribe will be deemed the cooperator with USDA and will be responsible for distributing the funds to the participating States/Tribes, for coordinating the performance of each participating

State/Tribe, and for submitting required reports and fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

B. Review and Selection Process

USDA, APHIS, VS is responsible for the selection of projects that will be funded through cooperative agreements. A selection panel will be established to participate in the evaluation and selection process. The panel will be selected by the APHIS Administrator and will consist of individuals primarily from APHIS and may include individuals from other agencies and state and tribal governments. Individuals will be selected based on their knowledge of animal identification issues, animal production and marketing environments, and of national animal identification plans developed through the collaborative effort of industry and government. Individuals on the panel will have no association with any project that is being reviewed. VS has final authority in determining which projects are selected to receive funding for this initiative.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notice

Applications selected for funding will be notified by email or phone after the selection process is complete (mid February 2006). APHIS may request modifications to the application work plan. Approximately 10 days after the notification (or upon receiving the acceptable revised work plan), APHIS will prepare and submit a Notice of Award to the cooperator for signature. Once the Notice of Award is signed and returned to APHIS for final signature, the agreement will become effective. A letter will be mailed to any unsuccessful applicants on approximately the same date the selected applicants are first notified.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Access privileges to national databases provided to cooperators by APHIS will be given only to individuals specified in the agreements and must not be shared with any other individual, organization, company, or other entity. Animal health data specified under the agreement that are collected under the terms of the agreement are to be provided to APHIS in accordance with the data transfer protocols required by the national databases.

Successful applicants must comply with the requirements contained in the USDA "Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations," 7 CFR 3015; "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," 7 CFR 3016; in addition to "Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-Procurement)," 7 CFR 3017; "Government wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace," 7 CFR 3021; "New Restrictions on Lobbying," 7 CFR 3018; and OMB regulations governing "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public," 5 CFR 1320.

C. Reporting

The Project Administrator will provide to the APHIS authorized representative **quarterly** accomplishment reports on program activities outlined in the workplan. The reports will

be used by APHIS to verify compliance with provisions of this **Agreement**. These reports are due **no later than 30 days** after the end of each Federal fiscal quarter except the final report which is due **no later than 90 days** after the **Agreement** expires or terminates.

The Project Administrator will provide to the APHIS authorized representative a properly certified **quarterly** Financial Status Report, SF-269, **no later than 30 days** after the end of each Federal fiscal quarter and a final SF-269 **no later than 90 days** after the **Agreement** expires or terminates. Any requests for an extension of time to submit the SF-269 must be made in writing to APHIS' authorized representative before expiration of the initial 30- or 90-day period allowed for submitting the report. Extensions of time to submit the SF-269 are subject to the discretion of APHIS' authorized representative and, if allowed, shall be provided by the authorized representative in writing.

VII. Agency Contacts

For questions of programmatic content, please contact:

Neil Hammerschmidt, APHIS, Veterinary Services, Ph. 301-734-5571
Email: Neil.E.Hammerschmidt@aphis.usda.gov

David Morris, APHIS, Veterinary Services, Ph. 970-494-7375
Email: David.L.Morris@aphis.usda.gov

John Wiemers, APHIS, Veterinary Services, Ph. 309-344-1942
Email: John.F.Weimers@aphis.usda.gov

For administrative questions, please contact:

Eileen Berke
APHIS, Agreements Services Center
Ph. 301-734-8330
Fax 301-734-8064
Eileen.M.Berke@aphis.usda.gov

VIII. Other Information

It is anticipated that the FY 2006 Federal budget will contain funds for additional cooperative agreements that will follow requirements similar to this Request for Applications. USDA is not obligated to make any award as a result of this announcement. Only the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer can bind the Government to expenditure of funds.